

Hearing Voices

“Little Megsie! Lovely to meet you sweetheart. Your father is looking for you, of course. Now go home, loves. The time is not ripe yet. Don’t worry, we won’t go on without you. Get plenty of food and rest. Now, off with you!”

“It’s funny, your coming out here in this time of year. Most folks come in the spring. Your big girl’s blind, ain’t she? That’s too bad. Well, the parlor’s on the other side of the office. You folks can set in there if you want to.”

Dear Journal,

Today we are having a speaker. She is going to tell us about recycling. Recycling is when you wash your trash, I believe. Mr. Smith said to write in our journals till the speaker gets here. Only I don’t even feel like writing today. Because I have a loose tooth, that’s why. And that thing is driving me crazy.

In these pages, you will read great tales of canine bravery and bravado, such as the journey of the first dog to set foot on North America. You will know the glory achieved by courageous dogs of war. You will be awed by the landmark silver-screen performances of Cujo, Old Yeller, and the ferocious Beagle Pack in Omen III: The Final Conflict. You will know what it means to be a Dog. What is the greatest scratching position in the world? How do you escape a humiliating attack of “dress up”? The answers are all inside this book.

“My son, you will now be the leader of these people. They will look to you to guide them. You must stop your ears if white men ask you to sign a treaty and sell your home. Never forget my dying words! This country holds your father’s body. Never sell the bones of your father and your mother.”

Maurice DuPree is six feet high, six feet wide, and has more fingers and toes than he has points on his IQ. I watched as he looked up at me with his little squinty bloodshot eyes. Then I watched as he stood up with his fist in a ball. Then I ran away as fast as I could. I wasn’t worried about fighting him, because I knew how the fight would come out. What I was worried about was how I would ever wake up once the fight was over.